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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
TM
AT LONG LAST... THE SHOCKING SECRET OF THE
BLACK CAT!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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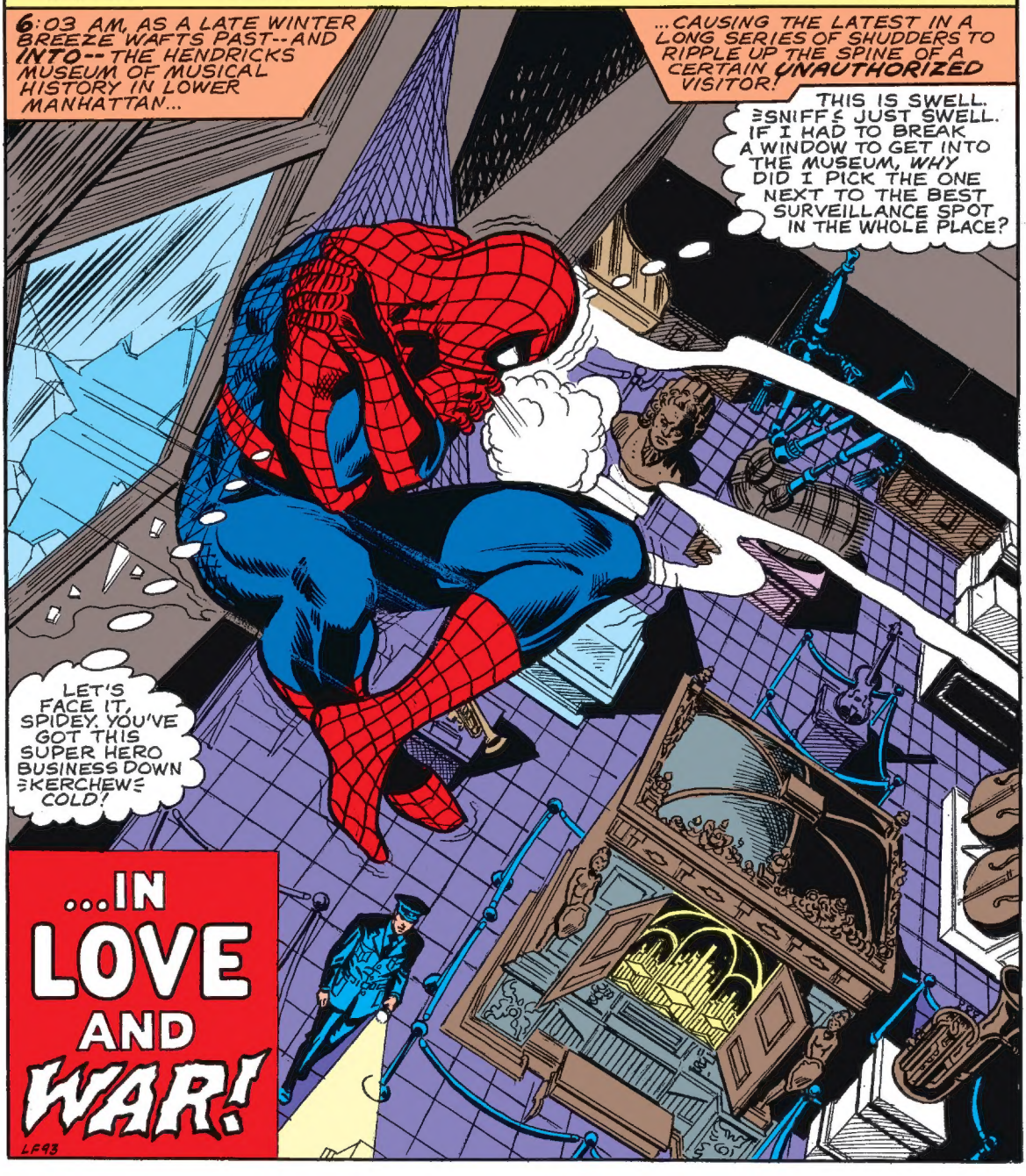

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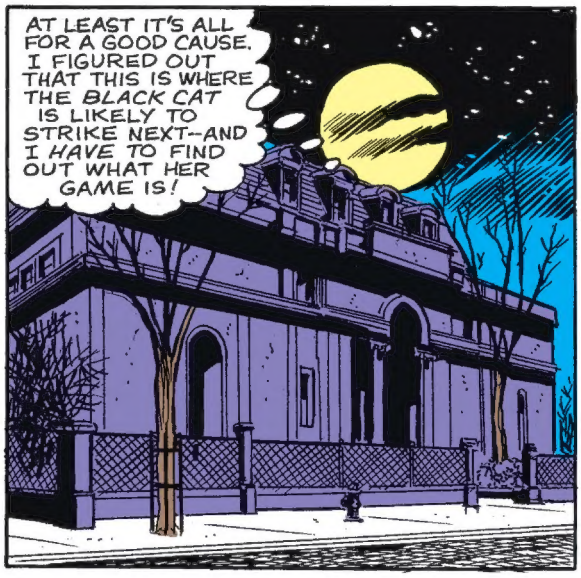
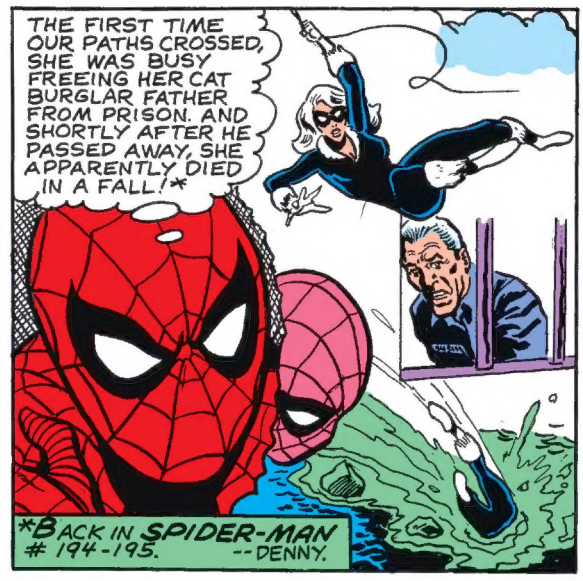
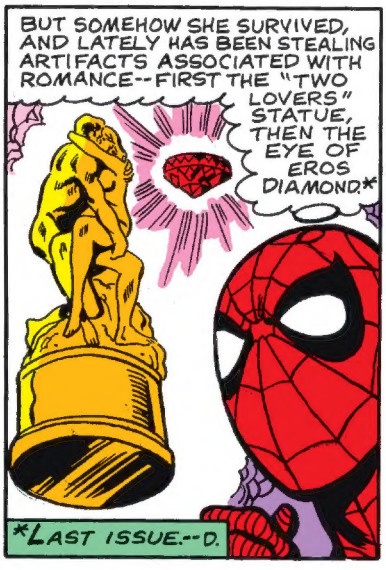
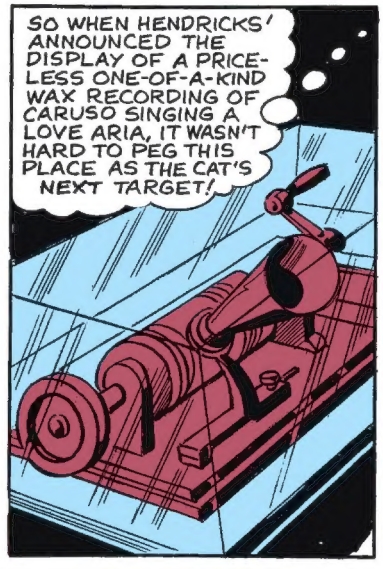

AT LEAST IT'S ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE. I FIGURED OUT THAT THIS IS WHERE THE BLACK CAT IS LIKELY TO STRIKE NEXT--AND I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT HER GAME IS!


THE FIRST TIME OUR PATHS CROSSED, SHE WAS BUSY FREEING HER CAT BURGLAR FATHER FROM PRISON. AND SHORTLY AFTER HE PASSED AWAY, SHE APPARENTLY DIED IN A FALL!*
*BACK IN SPIDER-MAN # 194-195. --DENNY.

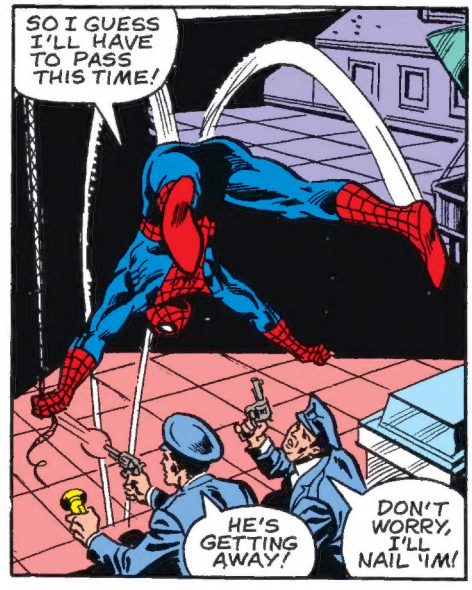

BUT SOMEHOW SHE SURVIVED, AND LATELY HAS BEEN STEALING ARTIFACTS ASSOCIATED WITH ROMANCE--FIRST THE "TWO LOVERS" STATUE, THEN THE EYE OF EROS DIAMOND.*
*LAST ISSUE.--D.

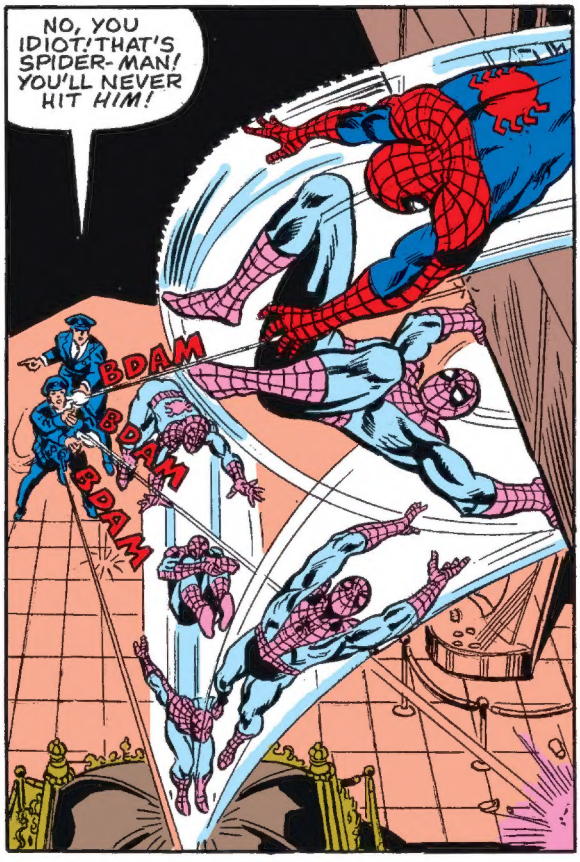

SO WHEN HENDRICKS' ANNOUNCED THE DISPLAY OF A PRICELESS ONE-OF-A-KIND WAX RECORDING OF CARUSO SINGING A LOVE ARIA, IT WASN'T HARD TO PEG THIS PLACE AS THE CAT'S NEXT TARGET!

BUT NOT TONIGHT, IT SEEMS--IT'S ALMOST DAWN, AND STILL NO ACTION.
SO I GUESS I'LL JUST HOP DOWN AND STRETCH MY MUSCLES BEFORE HEADING BACK TO--

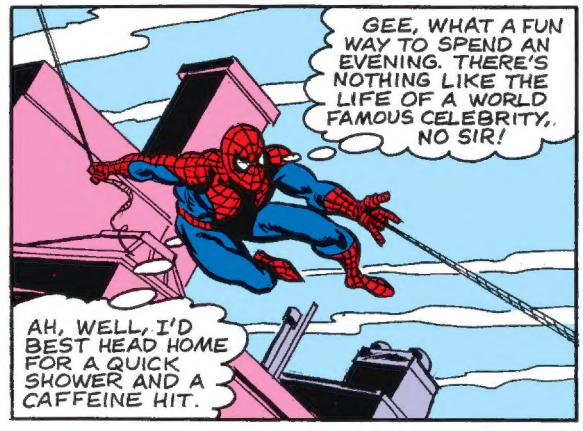
ALL RIGHT, BUSTER--FREEZE!
HUH?! OH, GREAT! THIS IS NOT WHAT I NEED!
SORRY, GUYS--

THWIP!
--BUT I'VE BEEN FREEZING ALL NIGHT!

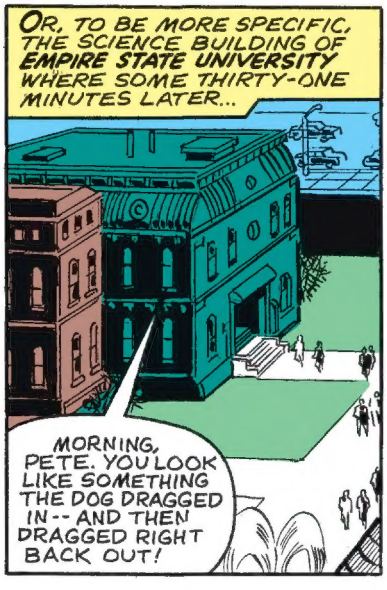

SO I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO PASS THIS TIME!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL NAIL 'IM!


NO, YOU IDIOT! THAT'S SPIDER-MAN! YOU'LL NEVER HIT HIM!
BDAM
BDAM
BDAM

BUT IF YOUR BULLETS SMASH ONE OF THOSE DISPLAYS, WE'LL BE WORKING FOR FREE FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS!
FAP
I'M A BAAAAD BOY!


GEE, WHAT A FUN WAY TO SPEND AN EVENING. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE LIFE OF A WORLD FAMOUS CELEBRITY, NO SIR!
AH, WELL, I'D BEST HEAD HOME FOR A QUICK SHOWER AND A CAFFEINE HIT.

UNLESS I READ THAT SUNRISE WRONG, I'VE GOT A WHOLE HALF-HOUR BEFORE I HAVE TO BE AT SCHOOL!


OR, TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, THE SCIENCE BUILDING OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY WHERE SOME THIRTY-ONE MINUTES LATER...
MORNING, PETE. YOU LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THE DOG DRAGGED IN -- AND THEN DRAGGED RIGHT BACK OUT!

THANKS STEVE. I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU FOR MORAL SUPPORT.
M'FRIEND, I THINK ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED IS WAITING IN YOUR OFFICE. YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
THIS EARLY? BUT WHO?

OH. HELLO, MS. STARR..
CALL ME DAWN, PETER. AFTER ALL, GOOD FRIENDS DO CALL EACH OTHER BY THEIR FIRST NAMES.

LOOK, MS. STARR, ITS LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE.* MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO, I CAN'T DATE A STUDENT. IT'S JUST NOT ETHICAL.
*AGAIN, LAST ISH.. --DEN.

OH, POOH. RULES LIKE THAT WERE MADE FOR IMMATURE PEOPLE WITH NO SELF CONTROL.
SURELY THERE'S NO HARM IN A SATISFYING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO CONSENTING ADULTS.

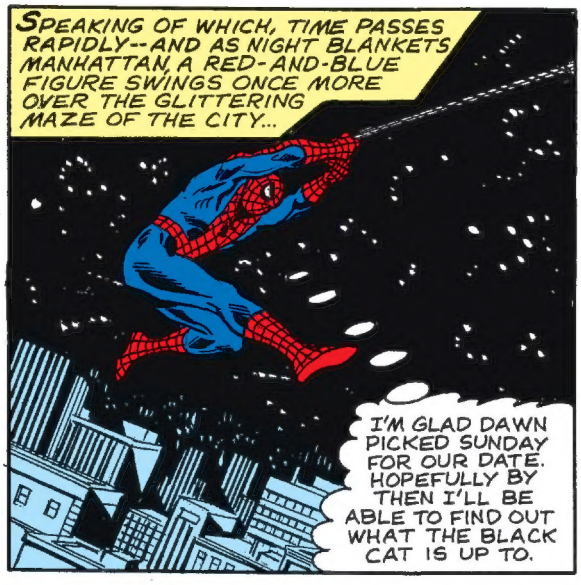
AND WE ARE ADULTS... AREN'T WE, PETER?
BU-- MNGF ≤... ≥GHGK ≤... MMMMM.

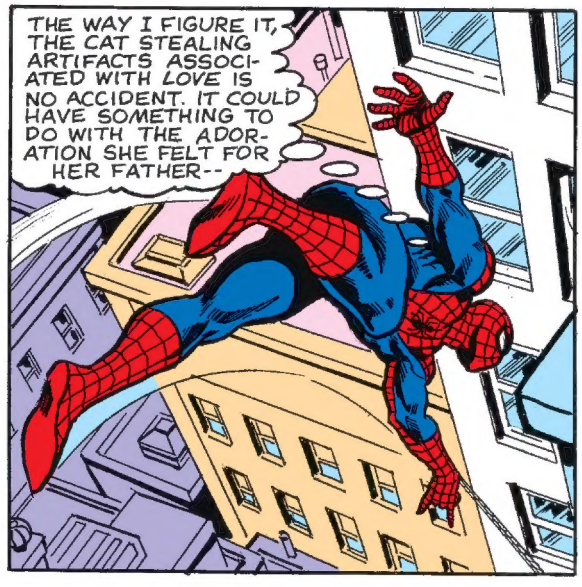
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DAWN? I THINK I LIKE BEING AN ADULT.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT.

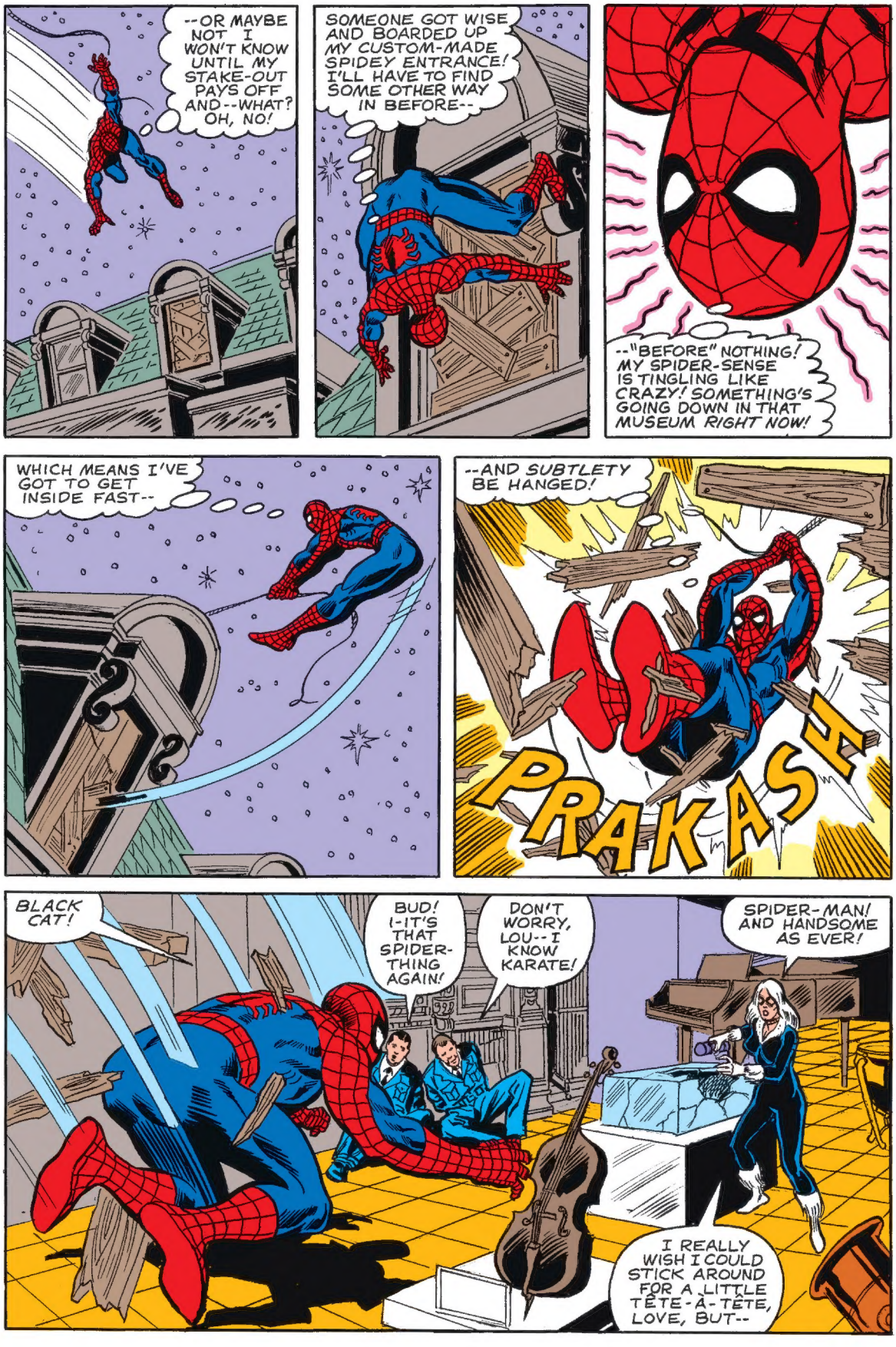
I'M STILL NOT SURE ABOUT THIS, BUT I DON'T SUPPOSE IT COULD HURT TO GIVE THINGS A TRY.
THAT'S MARVELOUS!

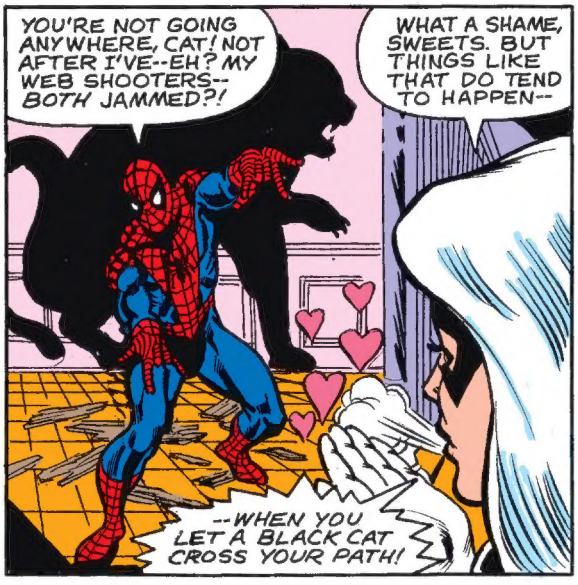
HOW ABOUT IF WE START WITH A PICNIC ON THE GREEN ON SUNDAY, DAY AFTER TOMORROW? I'LL BRING A BASKET OF GOODIES AND MEET YOU HERE AT NOON.
YOU'VE GOT A DATE, LADY.

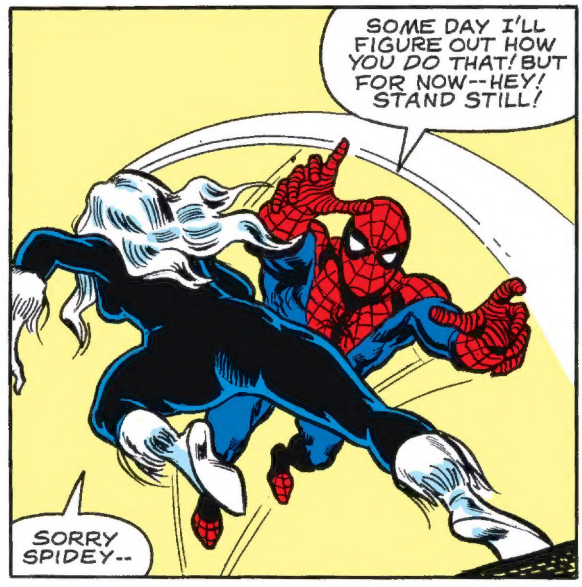
WHOOEE! THAT'S SOME SLICK NUMBER YOU GOT THERE, PETE.
YEAH, I GUESS THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR OL' PETEY PARKER.
AND IT'S ABOUT TIME!

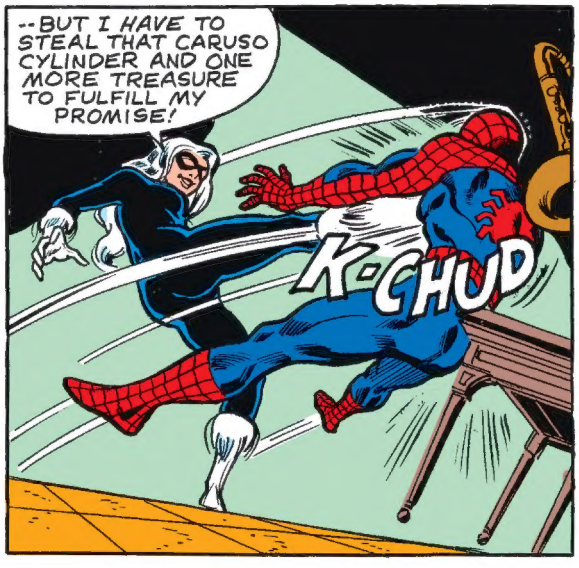

SPEAKING OF WHICH, TIME PASSES RAPIDLY--AND AS NIGHT BLANKETS MANHATTAN, A RED-AND-BLUE FIGURE SWINGS ONCE MORE OVER THE GLITTERING MAZE OF THE CITY...
I'M GLAD DAWN PICKED SUNDAY FOR OUR DATE. HOPEFULLY BY THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE BLACK CAT IS UP TO.

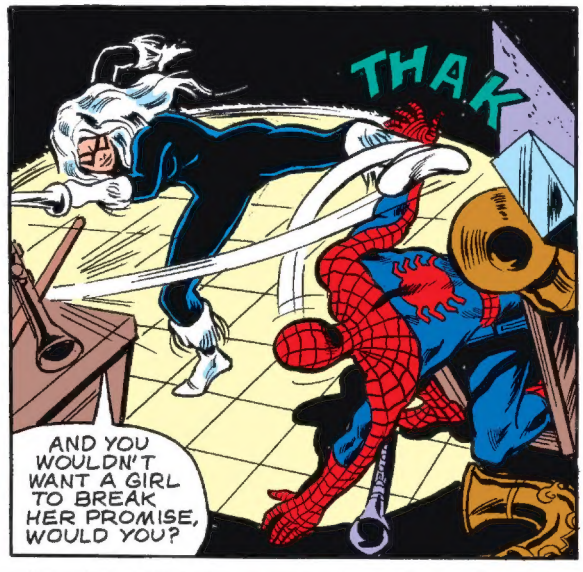

THE WAY I FIGURE IT, THE CAT STEALING ARTIFACTS ASSOCIATED WITH LOVE IS NO ACCIDENT. IT COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE ADORATION SHE FELT FOR HER FATHER--

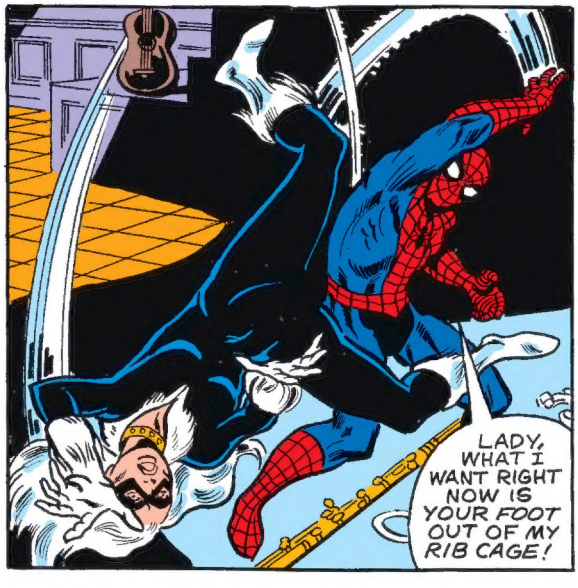

--OR MAYBE NOT I WON'T KNOW UNTIL MY STAKE-OUT PAYS OFF AND--WHAT? OH, NO!
SOMEONE GOT WISE AND BOARDED UP MY CUSTOM-MADE SPIDEY ENTRANCE! I'LL HAVE TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY IN BEFORE--
--"BEFORE" NOTHING! MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING LIKE CRAZY! SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN IN THAT MUSEUM RIGHT NOW!
WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE FAST--
--AND SUBTLETY BE HANGED!
PRAKASH
BLACK CAT!
BUD! I-IT'S THAT SPIDER-THING AGAIN!
DON'T WORRY, LOU--I KNOW KARATE!
SPIDER-MAN! AND HANDSOME AS EVER!
I REALLY WISH I COULD STICK AROUND FOR A LITTLE TÊTE-À-TÊTE, LOVE, BUT--


YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, CAT! NOT AFTER I'VE--EH? MY WEB SHOOTERS--BOTH JAMMED?!
WHAT A SHAME, SWEETS. BUT THINGS LIKE THAT DO TEND TO HAPPEN--
--WHEN YOU LET A BLACK CAT CROSS YOUR PATH!

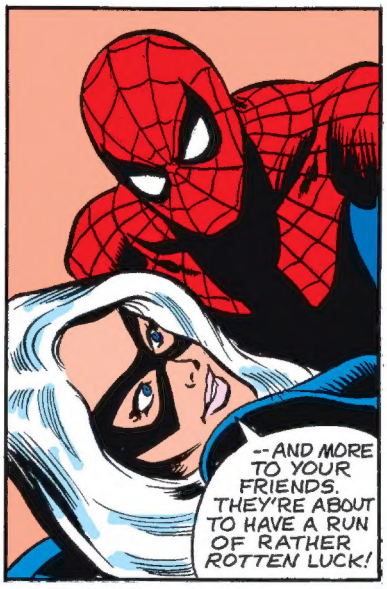

SOME DAY I'LL FIGURE OUT HOW YOU DO THAT! BUT FOR NOW--HEY! STAND STILL!
SORRY SPIDEY--


--BUT I HAVE TO STEAL THAT CARUSO CYLINDER AND ONE MORE TREASURE TO FULFILL MY PROMISE!
K-CHUD

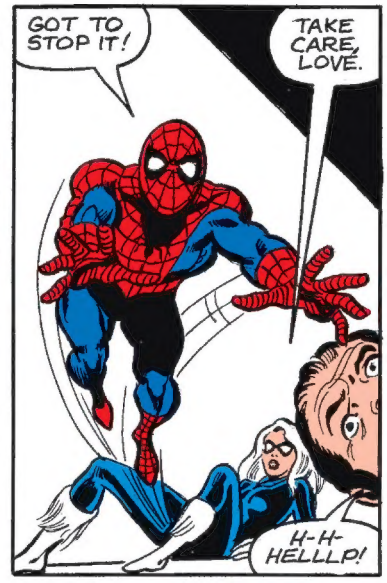

THAK
AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT A GIRL TO BREAK HER PROMISE, WOULD YOU?

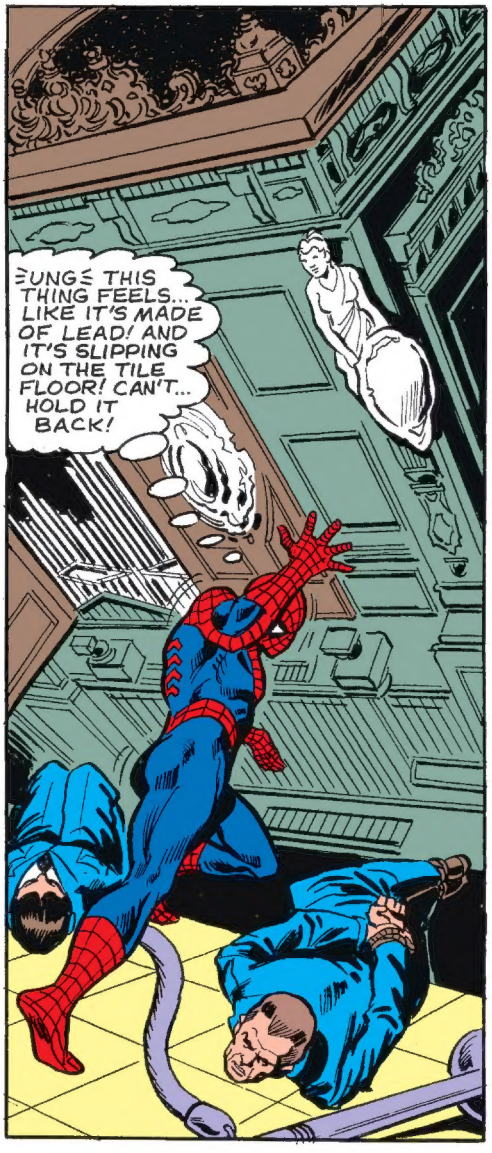

LADY, WHAT I WANT RIGHT NOW IS YOUR FOOT OUT OF MY RIB CAGE!

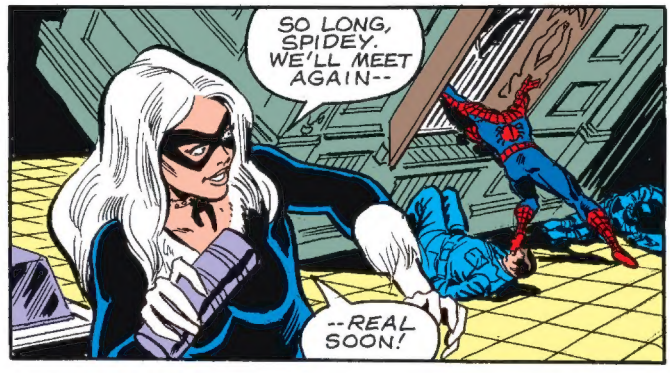
NOW, DO WE STOP PUSSYFOOTING AROUND-- OR DO I FIX IT SO YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR FRISKIES THROUGH A TUBE?
OOO, YOU'RE ALMOST AS MACHO AS YOU ARE CUTE! BUT I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD PAY LESS ATTENTION TO ME, LOVE--


--AND MORE TO YOUR FRIENDS. THEY'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A RUN OF RATHER ROTTEN LUCK!

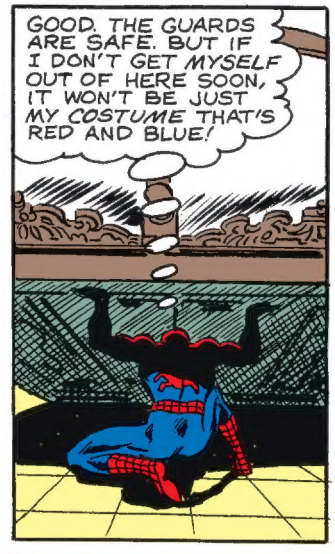
WHA-- THE GUARDS! THAT STEAM ORGAN IS FALLING RIGHT ON TOP OF THEM!

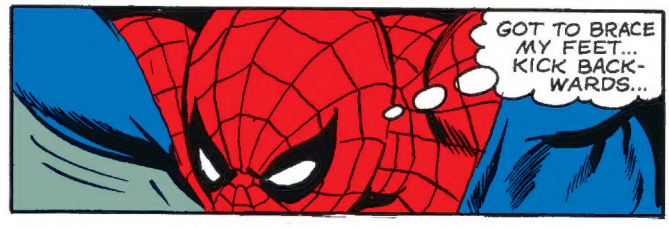

GOT TO STOP IT!
TAKE CARE, LOVE.
H-H-HELLLP!

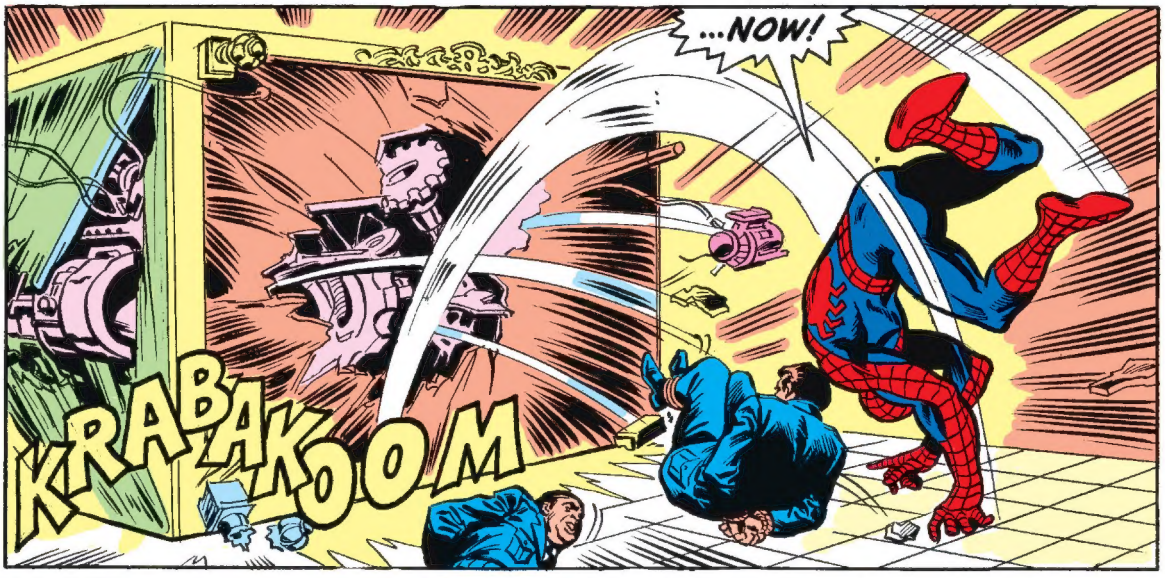

UNGH THIS THING FEELS... LIKE IT'S MADE OF LEAD! AND IT'S SLIPPING ON THE TILE FLOOR! CAN'T... HOLD IT BACK!


SO LONG, SPIDEY. WE'LL MEET AGAIN--
--REAL SOON!

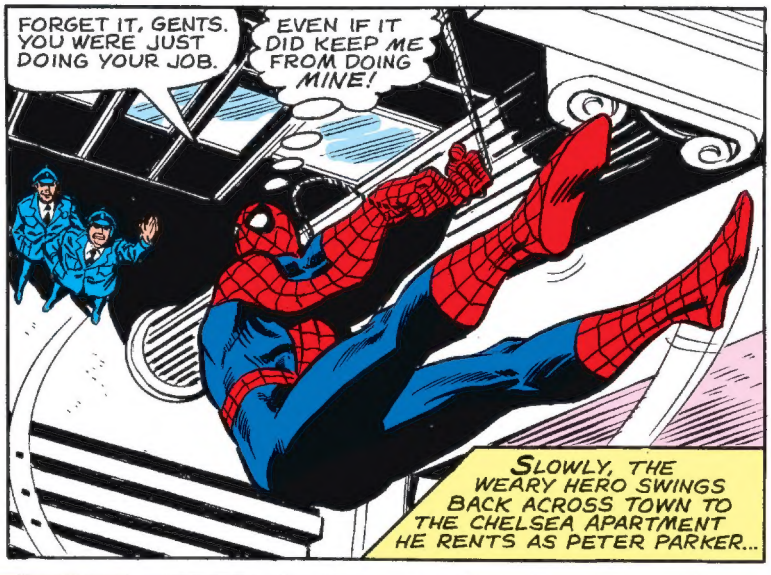
YOU MEN, ROLL OUT OF THE WAY! I-I CAN'T KEEP THE CASE UP AGH! MUCH LONGER!

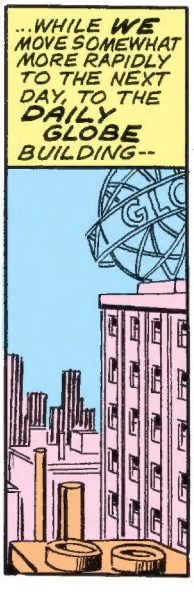

GOOD. THE GUARDS ARE SAFE. BUT IF I DON'T GET MYSELF OUT OF HERE SOON, IT WON'T BE JUST MY COSTUME THAT'S RED AND BLUE!

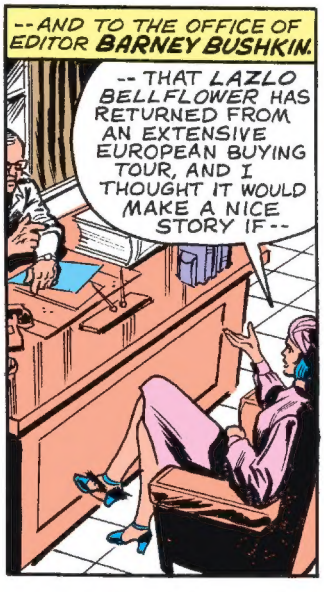

GOT TO BRACE MY FEET... KICK BACK-WARDS...


...NOW!
KRABAKOOM

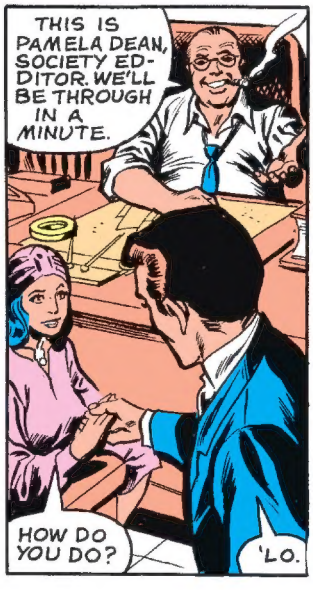
GOSH, SPIDER-MAN, THANKS! AND, UH, WELL...WE'RE AWFUL SORRY ABOUT HOW WE TREATED YOU LAST NIGHT.
YEAH, WE THOUGHT YOU WAS A A BAD GUY.

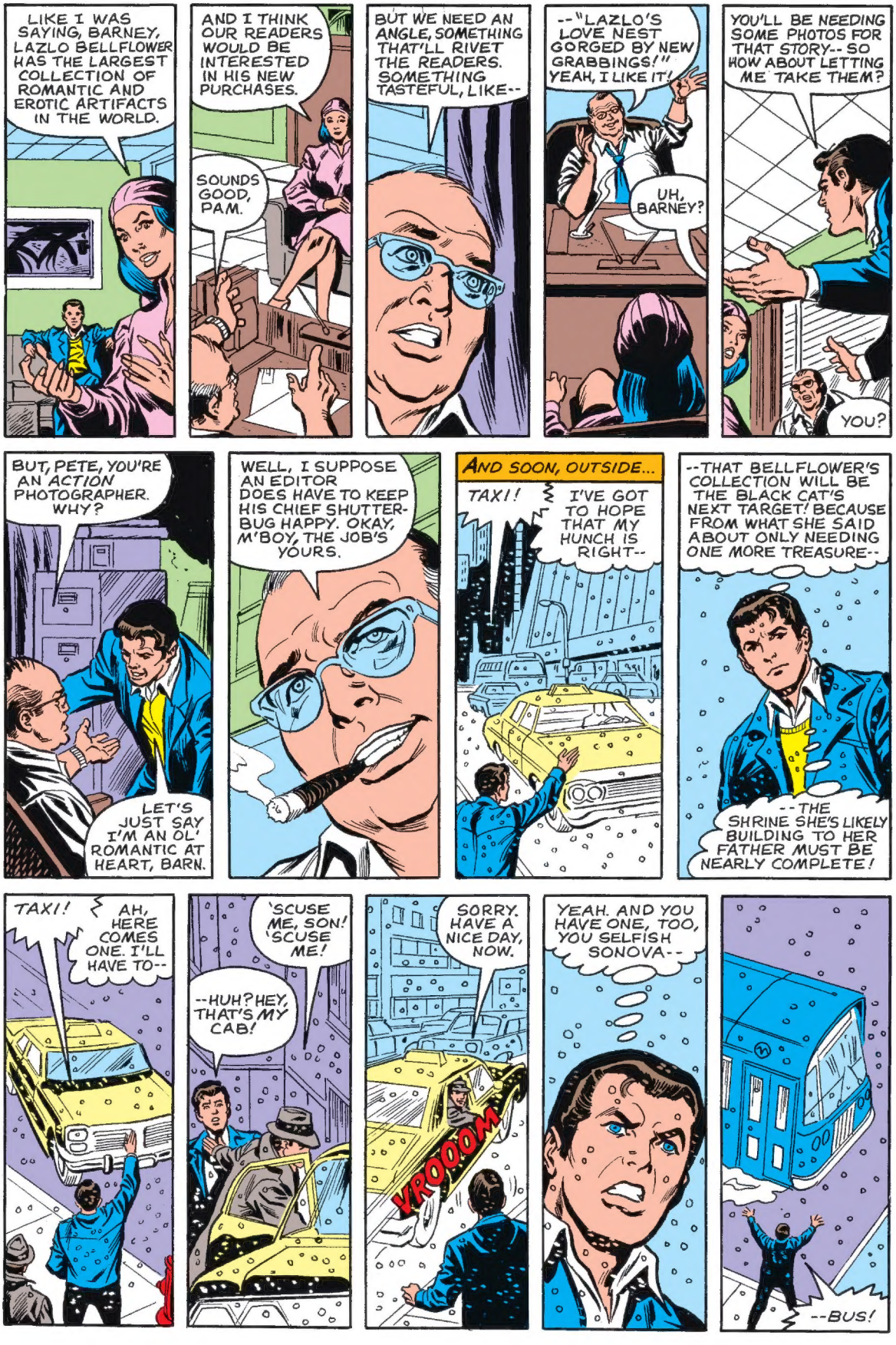

FORGET IT, GENTS. YOU WERE JUST DOING YOUR JOB.
EVEN IF IT DID KEEP ME FROM DOING MINE!
SLOWLY, THE WEARY HERO SWINGS BACK ACROSS TOWN TO THE CHELSEA APARTMENT HE RENTS AS PETER PARKER...

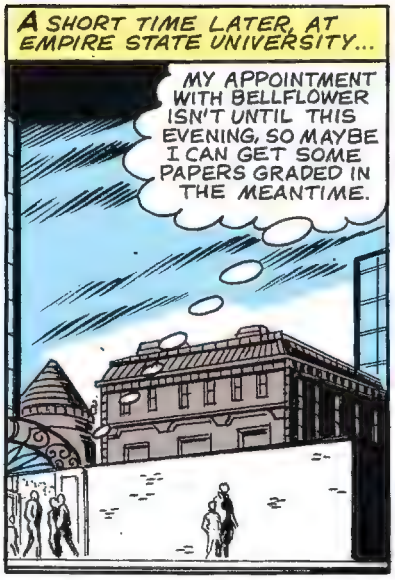

...WHILE WE MOVE SOMEWHAT MORE RAPIDLY TO THE NEXT DAY, TO THE DAILY GLOBE BUILDING--

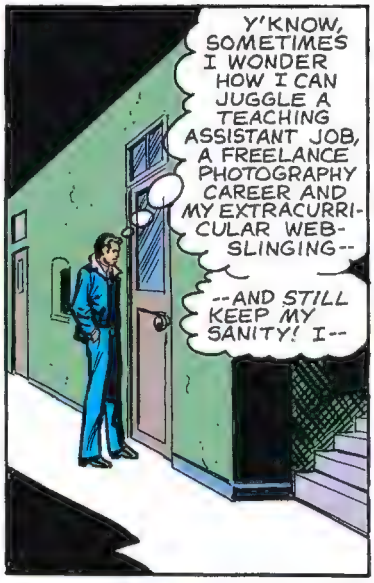

--AND TO THE OFFICE OF EDITOR BARNEY BUSHKIN.
-- THAT LAZLO BELLFLOWER HAS RETURNED FROM AN EXTENSIVE EUROPEAN BUYING TOUR, AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE A NICE STORY IF--

HI, BARNEY, ANY ASSIGNMENTS FOR ME TODA--OH. SORRY. DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BUSY.
NONSENSE, M'BOY, COME IN AND HAVE A SEAT.

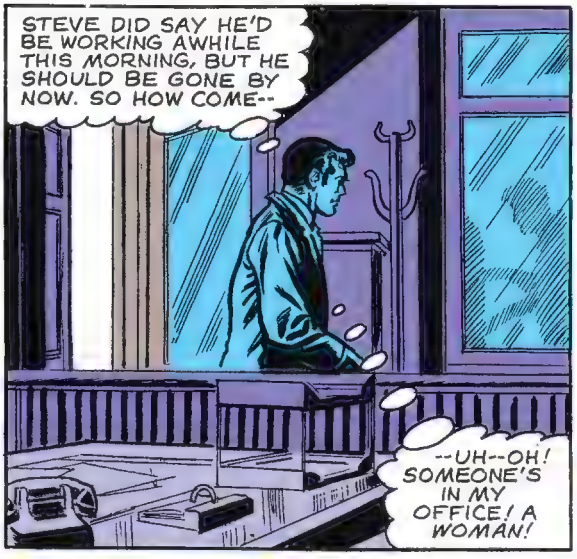

THIS IS PAMELA DEAN, SOCIETY EDITOR. WE'LL BE THROUGH IN A MINUTE.
HOW DO YOU DO?
'LO.


LIKE I WAS SAYING, BARNEY, LAZLO BELLFLOWER HAS THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF ROMANTIC AND EROTIC ARTIFACTS IN THE WORLD.
AND I THINK OUR READERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HIS NEW PURCHASES.
SOUNDS GOOD, PAM.
BUT WE NEED AN ANGLE, SOMETHING THAT'LL RIVET THE READERS. SOMETHING TASTEFUL, LIKE--
--"LAZLO'S LOVE NEST GORGED BY NEW GRABBINGS!" YEAH, I LIKE IT!
UH, BARNEY?
YOU'LL BE NEEDING SOME PHOTOS FOR THAT STORY-- SO HOW ABOUT LETTING ME TAKE THEM?
YOU?
BUT, PETE, YOU'RE AN ACTION PHOTOGRAPHER. WHY?
LET'S JUST SAY I'M AN OL' ROMANTIC AT HEART, BARN.
WELL, I SUPPOSE AN EDITOR DOES HAVE TO KEEP HIS CHIEF SHUTTER-BUG HAPPY. OKAY, M'BOY, THE JOB'S YOURS.
AND SOON, OUTSIDE...
TAX!!
I'VE GOT TO HOPE THAT MY HUNCH IS RIGHT--
--THAT BELLFLOWER'S COLLECTION WILL BE THE BLACK CAT'S NEXT TARGET! BECAUSE FROM WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT ONLY NEEDING ONE MORE TREASURE--
--THE SHRINE SHE'S LIKELY BUILDING TO HER FATHER MUST BE NEARLY COMPLETE!
TAX!!
AH, HERE COMES ONE. I'LL HAVE TO--
'SCUSE ME, SON! 'SCUSE ME!
--HUH? HEY, THAT'S MY CAB!
SORRY. HAVE A NICE DAY, NOW.
VROOOM
YEAH. AND YOU HAVE ONE, TOO, YOU SELFISH SONOVA--
--BUS!


A SHORT TIME LATER, AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...
MY APPOINTMENT WITH BELLFLOWER ISN'T UNTIL THIS EVENING, SO MAYBE I CAN GET SOME PAPERS GRADED IN THE MEANTIME.


Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW I CAN JUGGLE A TEACHING ASSISTANT JOB, A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY CAREER AND MY EXTRACURRICULAR WEB-SLINGING--
--AND STILL KEEP MY SANITY! I--

WHA--? THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED!


STEVE DID SAY HE'D BE WORKING AWHILE THIS MORNING, BUT HE SHOULD BE GONE BY NOW. SO HOW COME--
--UH--OH! SOMEONE'S IN MY OFFICE! A WOMAN!

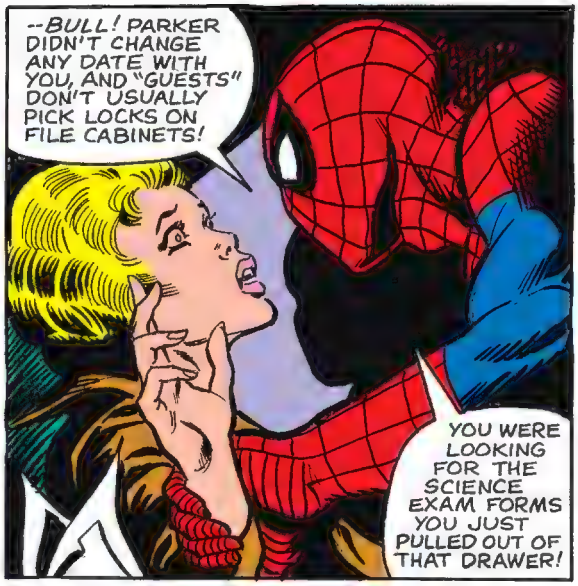
IT COULD BE THE BLACK CAT--ONLY HOW DID SHE KNOW I'D BE HERE?
WELL, ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN: IT'S NOT PETER PARKER WHO'S GOING TO FIND OUT!

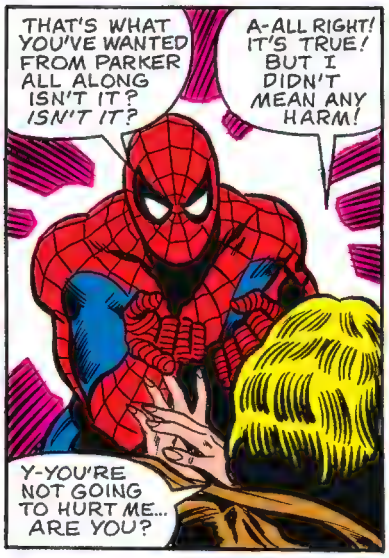
SECONDS LATER...
BINGO! THIS IS JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FO--
CAN I HELP YOU, MISS?

WHO--? SPIDER MAN!
DAWN? DAWN STARR?!
WH- WHAT DO YOU WANT? A-AND HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?

I KNOW A LOT OF THINGS, LADY! BUT THE ONE YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP ME WITH IS: JUST WHAT THE BLOODY BLUE BLAZES ARE YOU DOING HERE?

OH, UH, I-I'M A GUEST! I HAD A DATE WITH PETER PARKER FOR TOMORROW B-BUT HE, ER, CHANGED IT TO TODAY!
H-HIS FRIEND, STEVE HOPKINS, LET ME IN SO I COULD WAIT AND--
IN A WORD, MISS STARR--


--BULL! PARKER DIDN'T CHANGE ANY DATE WITH YOU, AND "GUESTS" DON'T USUALLY PICK LOCKS ON FILE CABINETS!
YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THE SCIENCE EXAM FORMS YOU JUST PULLED OUT OF THAT DRAWER!

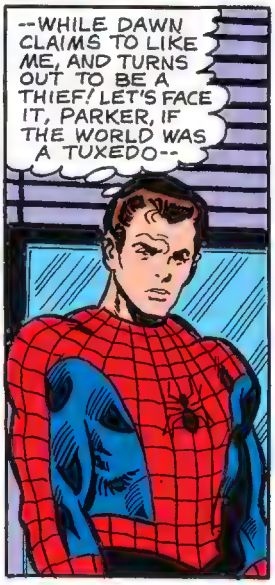

THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE WANTED FROM PARKER ALL ALONG ISN'T IT? ISN'T IT?
A-ALL RIGHT! IT'S TRUE! BUT I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!
Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HURT ME... ARE YOU?

LADY, IN IRAN THEY EXECUTE PEOPLE FOR JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO TO YOU!
BUT I'LL TRY TO CONTROL MYSELF FOR ANOTHER FIVE SECONDS.

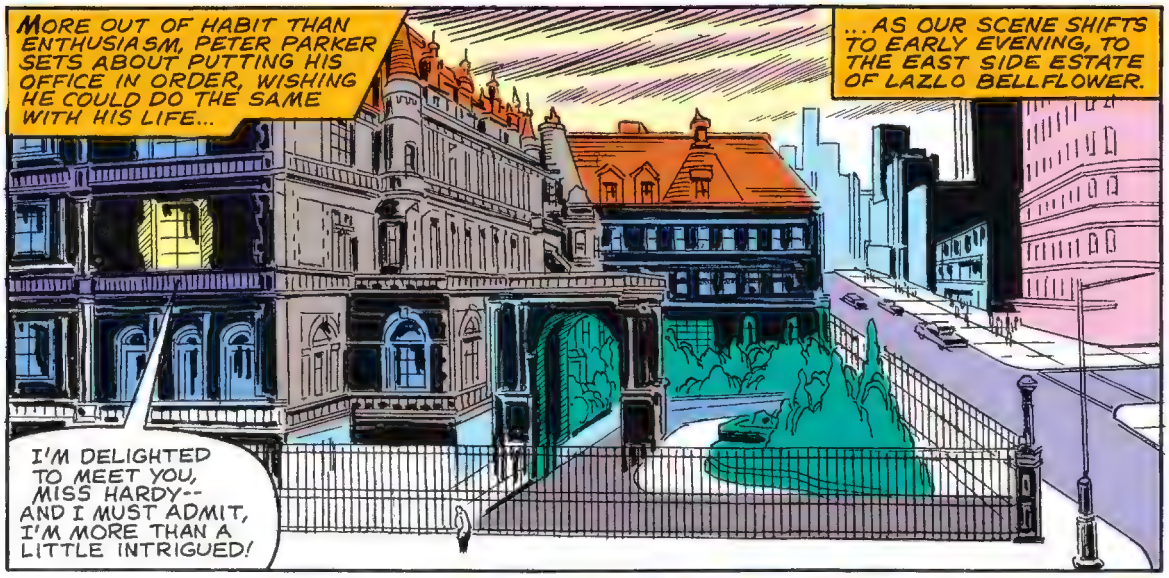
AFTER WHICH, IF YOU'RE STILL HERE...!
O-O-OH, NO! I-I'M GOING! I'M GOING!

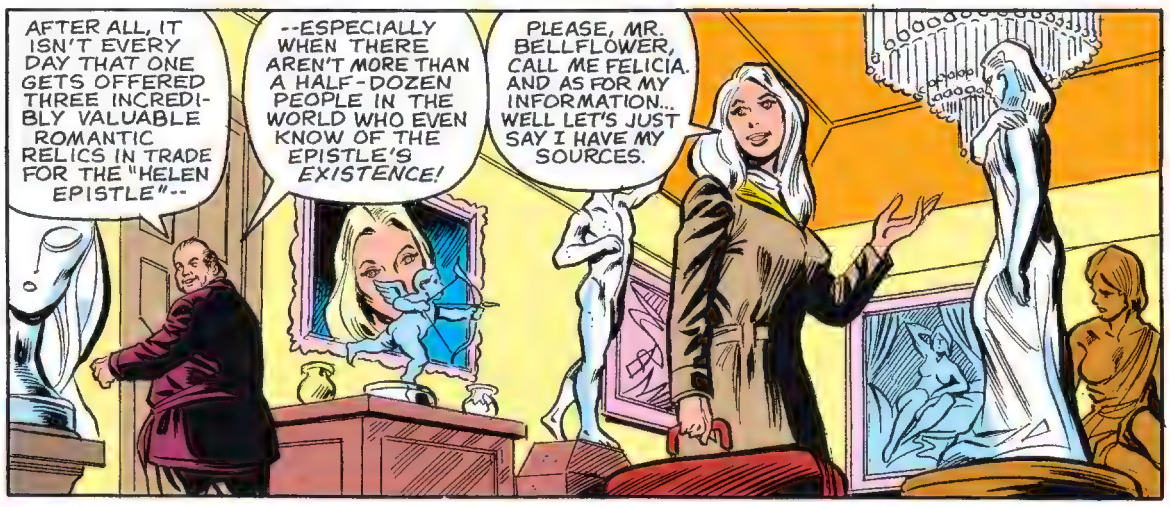
THE CLUTTERED OFFICE SEEMS EMPTY NOW, AS THE MAJESTIC SUPER HERO CALLED SPIDER-MAN LETS HIS SHOULDERS SAG, HIS HEAD BOW...

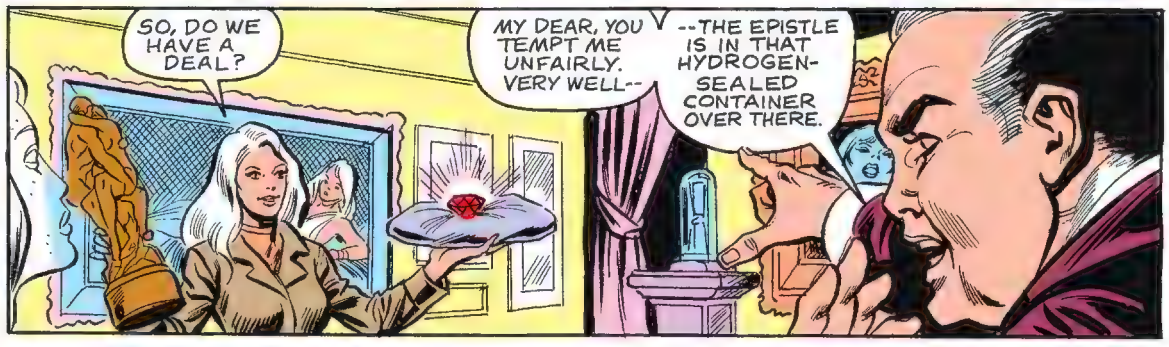
THAT'S WONDERFUL. THE BLACK CAT IS A THIEF WHO CLAIMS TO LIKE ME--

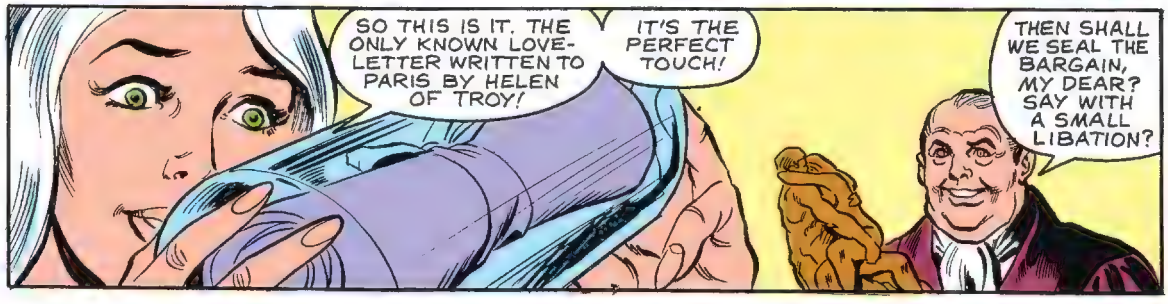

--WHILE DAWN CLAIMS TO LIKE ME, AND TURNS OUT TO BE A THIEF! LET'S FACE IT, PARKER, IF THE WORLD WAS A TUXEDO--

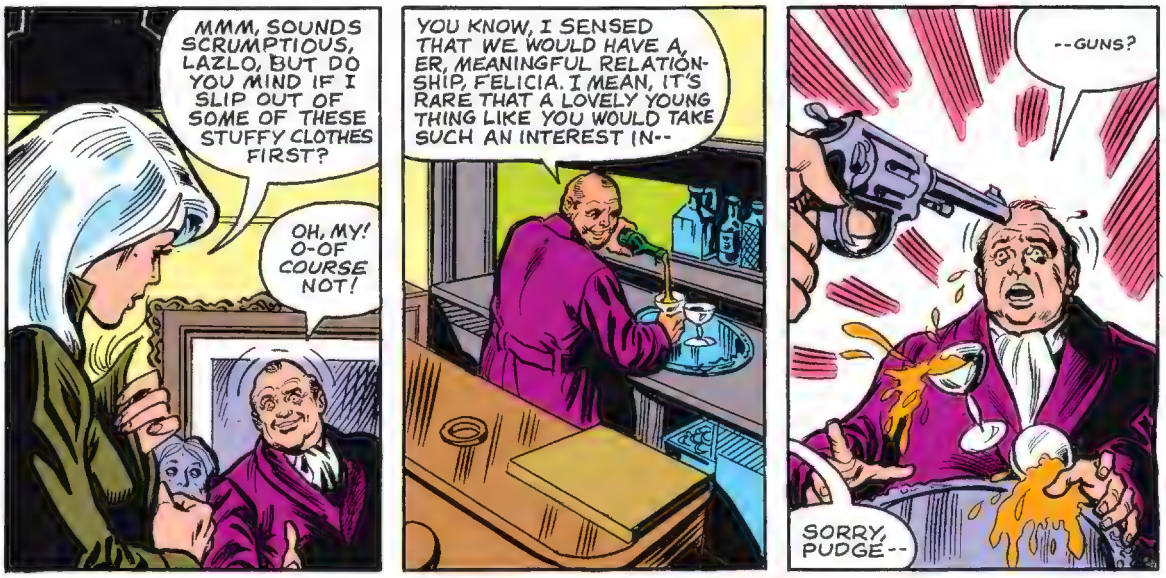
--YOU'D BE A SECOND-HAND JOGGING SHOE!
WITH A BROKEN LACE!

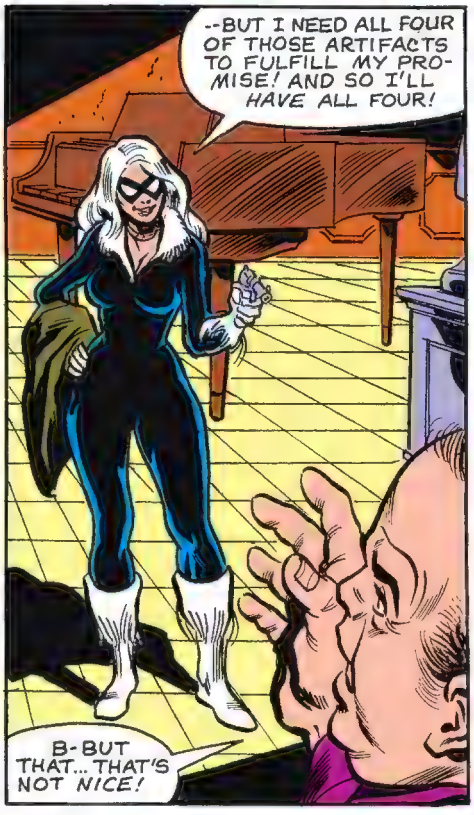

MORE OUT OF HABIT THAN ENTHUSIASM, PETER PARKER SETS ABOUT PUTTING HIS OFFICE IN ORDER, WISHING HE COULD DO THE SAME WITH HIS LIFE...
...AS OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO EARLY EVENING, TO THE EAST SIDE ESTATE OF LAZLO BELLFLOWER.
I'M DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU, MISS HARDY-- AND I MUST ADMIT, I'M MORE THAN A LITTLE INTRIGUED!

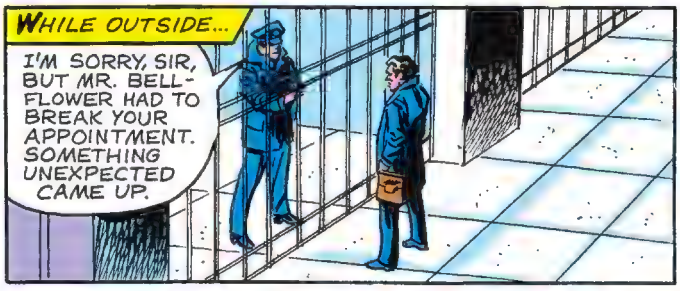

AFTER ALL, IT ISN'T EVERY DAY THAT ONE GETS OFFERED THREE INCREDIBLY VALUABLE ROMANTIC RELICS IN TRADE FOR THE "HELEN EPISTLE"--
--ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE AREN'T MORE THAN A HALF-DOZEN PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO EVEN KNOW OF THE EPISTLE'S EXISTENCE!
PLEASE, MR. BELLFLOWER, CALL ME FELICIA. AND AS FOR MY INFORMATION... WELL LET'S JUST SAY I HAVE MY SOURCES.


SO, DO WE HAVE A DEAL?
MY DEAR, YOU TEMPT ME UNFAIRLY. VERY WELL--
--THE EPISTLE IS IN THAT HYDROGEN-SEALED CONTAINER OVER THERE.


SO THIS IS IT. THE ONLY KNOWN LOVE-LETTER WRITTEN TO PARIS BY HELEN OF TROY!
IT'S THE PERFECT TOUCH!
THEN SHALL WE SEAL THE BARGAIN, MY DEAR? SAY WITH A SMALL LIBATION?


MMM, SOUNDS SCRUMPTIOUS, LAZLO, BUT DO YOU MIND IF I SLIP OUT OF SOME OF THESE STUFFY CLOTHES FIRST?
OH, MY! O-OF COURSE NOT!
YOU KNOW, I SENSED THAT WE WOULD HAVE A, ER, MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP, FELICIA. I MEAN, IT'S RARE THAT A LOVELY YOUNG THING LIKE YOU WOULD TAKE SUCH AN INTEREST IN--
--GUNS?
SORRY, PUDGE--

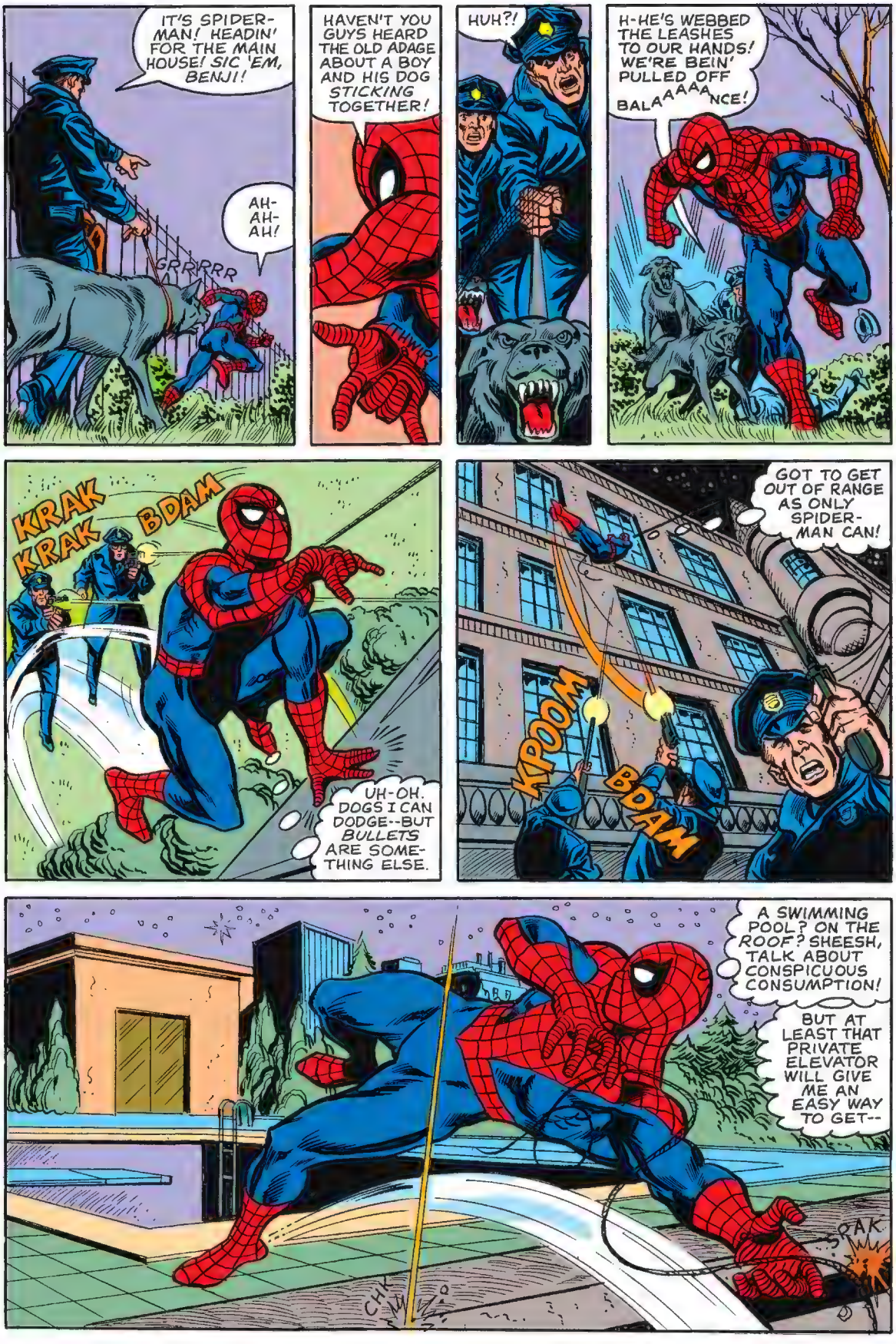

--BUT I NEED ALL FOUR OF THOSE ARTIFACTS TO FULFILL MY PROMISE! AND SO I'LL HAVE ALL FOUR!
B-BUT THAT... THAT'S NOT NICE!

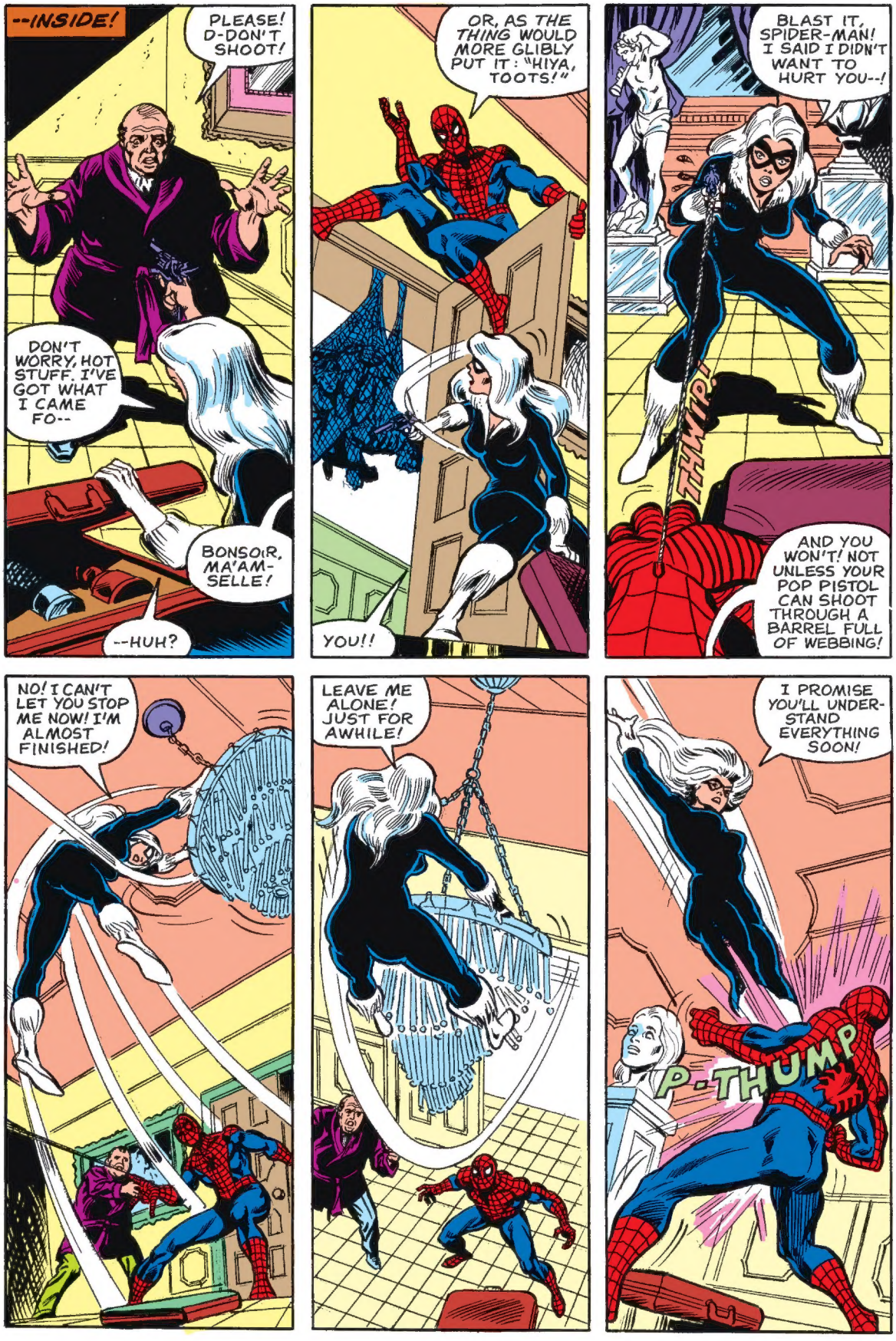

WHILE OUTSIDE...
I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT MR. BELLFLOWER HAD TO BREAK YOUR APPOINTMENT. SOMETHING UNEXPECTED CAME UP.

IF YOU'LL CALL BACK TOMORROW...?
UH, THANKS. I'LL DO THAT.
LIKE HECK I WILL!

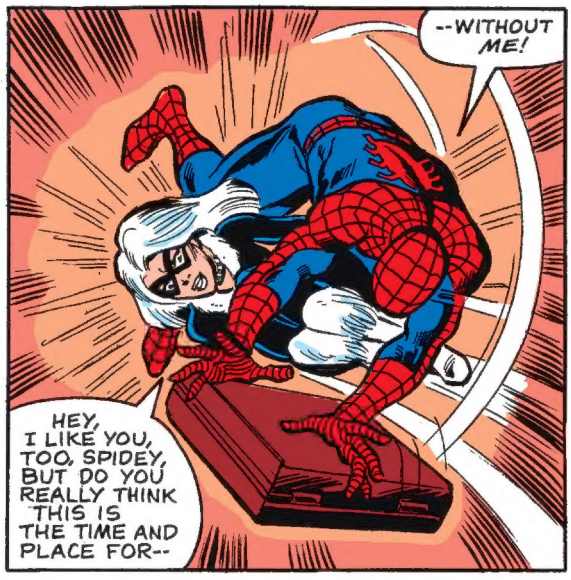
MY SPIDER SENSE IS JANGLING LIKE A TWO-DOLLAR ALARM CLOCK! AND THAT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT THE BLACK CAT IS ALREADY INSIDE!

I'VE GOT TO HURRY! THIS COULD BE MY LAST CHANCE TO STOP THE CAT BEFORE--!

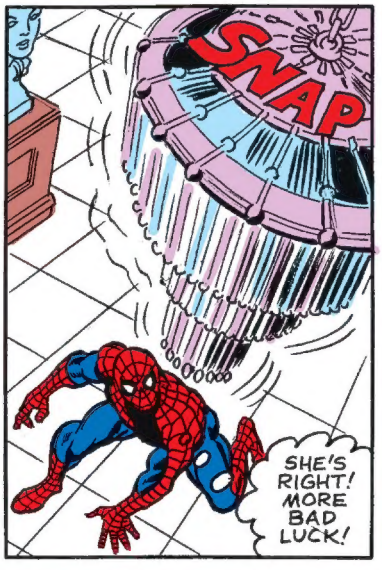

IT'S SPIDER-MAN! HEADIN' FOR THE MAIN HOUSE! SIC 'EM, BENJI!
AH-AH-AH!
GRRRRR
HAVEN'T YOU GUYS HEARD THE OLD ADAGE ABOUT A BOY AND HIS DOG STICKING TOGETHER!
THWIP!
HUH?!
H-HE'S WEBBED THE LEASHES TO OUR HANDS! WE'RE BEIN' PULLED OFF BALAAAAANCE!
KRAK KRAK
BDAM
UH-OH. DOGS I CAN DODGE--BUT BULLETS ARE SOME-THING ELSE.
GOT TO GET OUT OF RANGE AS ONLY SPIDER-MAN CAN!
KPOOM
BDAM
A SWIMMING POOL? ON THE ROOF? SHEESH, TALK ABOUT CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION!
BUT AT LEAST THAT PRIVATE ELEVATOR WILL GIVE ME AN EASY WAY TO GET--
SPAK
CHK


--INSIDE!
PLEASE! D-DON'T SHOOT!
DON'T WORRY, HOT STUFF. I'VE GOT WHAT I CAME FO--
BONSOIR, MA'AM-SELLE!
--HUH?
OR, AS THE THING WOULD MORE GLIBLY PUT IT: "HIYA, TOOTS!"
YOU!!
BLAST IT, SPIDER-MAN! I SAID I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT YOU--!
THWIP!
AND YOU WON'T! NOT UNLESS YOUR POP PISTOL CAN SHOOT THROUGH A BARREL FULL OF WEBBING!
NO! I CAN'T LET YOU STOP ME NOW! I'M ALMOST FINISHED!
LEAVE ME ALONE! JUST FOR AWHILE!
I PROMISE YOU'LL UNDER-STAND EVERYTHING SOON!
P-THUMP

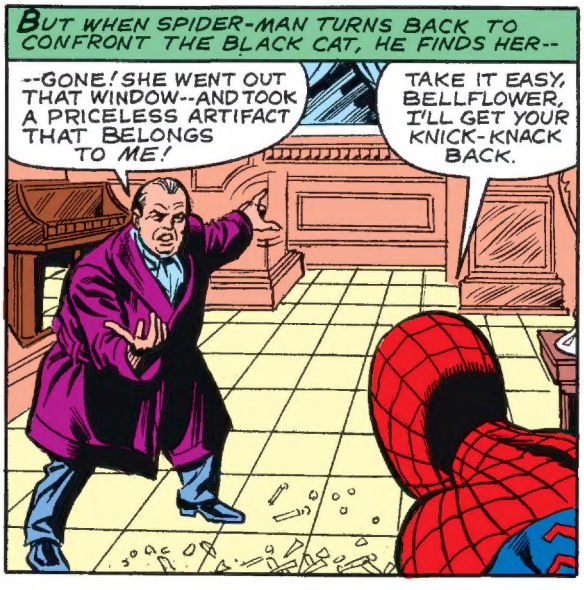
THE ONLY THING I UNDERSTAND, BLACK CAT, IS THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE--


--WITHOUT ME!
HEY, I LIKE YOU, TOO, SPIDEY, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS THE TIME AND PLACE FOR--

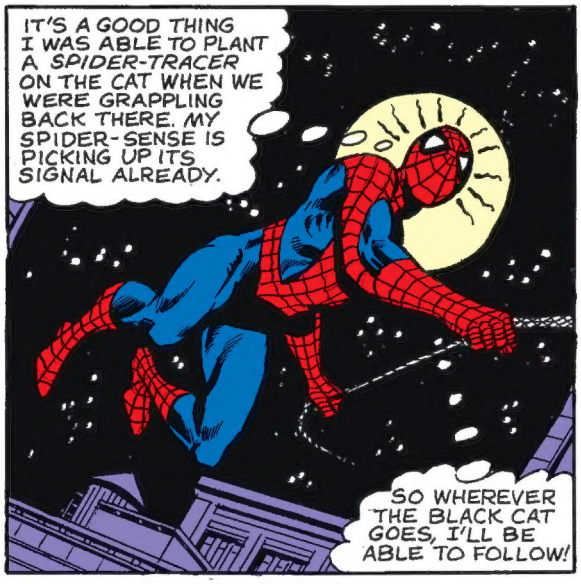
--LOOK OUT! THE CHANDELIER.
IT'S GOING TO FALL!

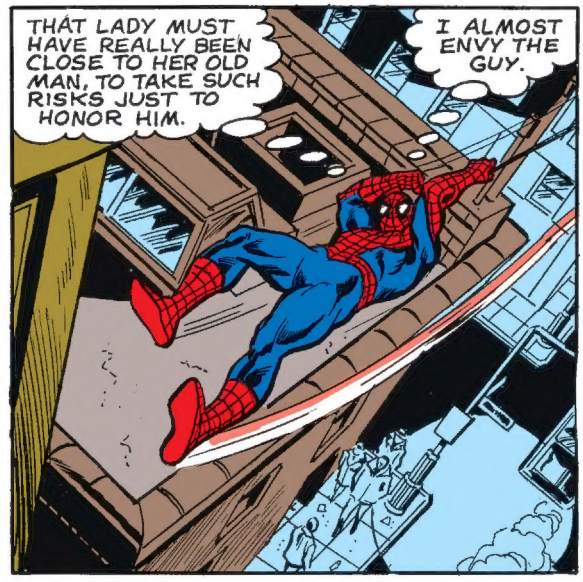

SNAP
SHE'S RIGHT! MORE BAD LUCK!

ONLY THIS TIME THE CAT'S WARNING SOUNDED SINCERE, LIKE SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME! WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!?
KRAKALEESH

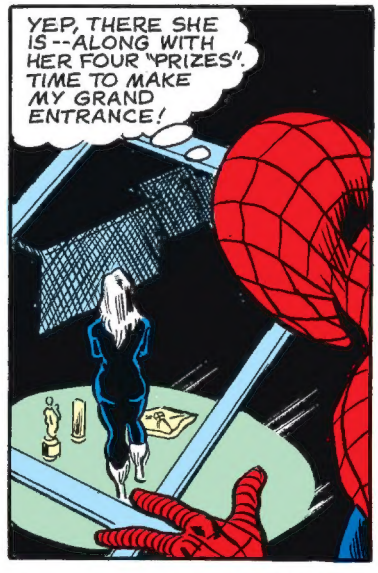

BUT WHEN SPIDER-MAN TURNS BACK TO CONFRONT THE BLACK CAT, HE FINDS HER--
--GONE! SHE WENT OUT THAT WINDOW--AND TOOK A PRICELESS ARTIFACT THAT BELONGS TO ME!
TAKE IT EASY, BELLFLOWER, I'LL GET YOUR KNICK-KNACK BACK.

WELL, I SHOULD HOPE SO, AFTER SMASHING MY BEAUTIFUL CHANDELIER! J. JONAH JAMESON WAS RIGHT ABOUT COSTUMED RUFFIANS! I SHOULD SUE FOR--
YOU'RE WELCOME.

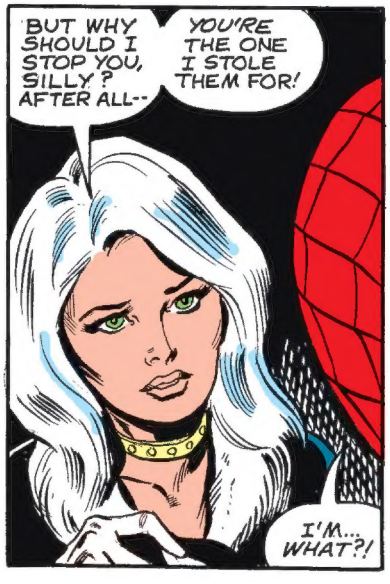

IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS ABLE TO PLANT A SPIDER-TRACER ON THE CAT WHEN WE WERE GRAPPLING BACK THERE. MY SPIDER-SENSE IS PICKING UP ITS SIGNAL ALREADY.
SO WHEREVER THE BLACK CAT GOES, I'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW!

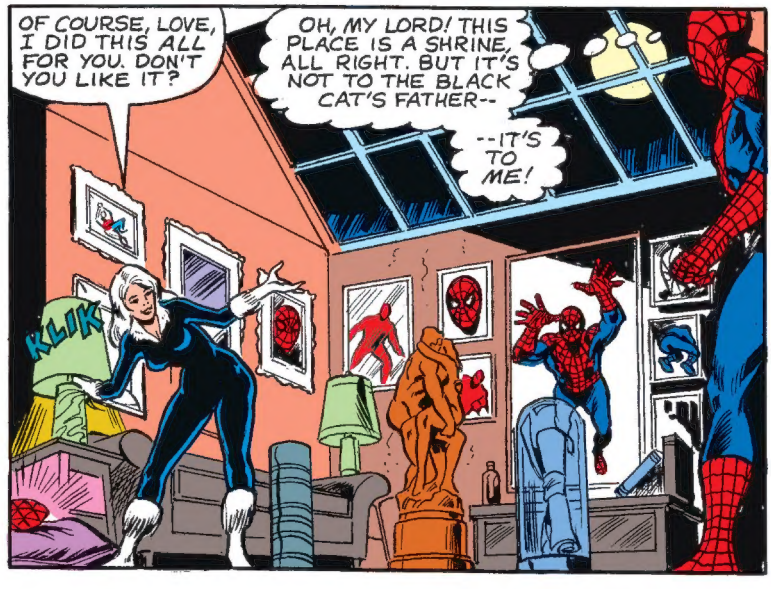

THAT LADY MUST HAVE REALLY BEEN CLOSE TO HER OLD MAN, TO TAKE SUCH RISKS JUST TO HONOR HIM.
I ALMOST ENVY THE GUY.

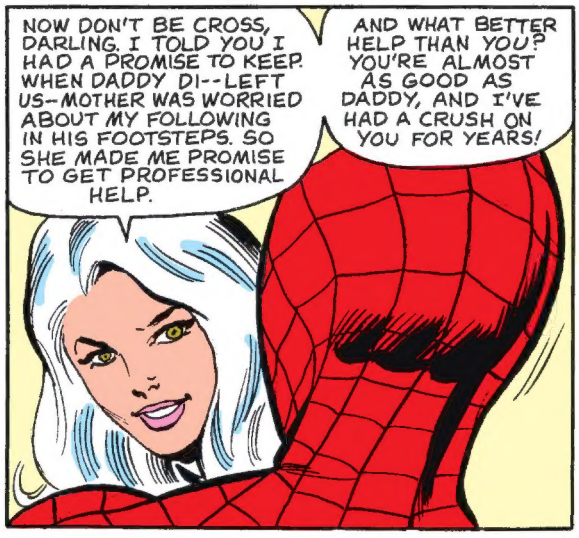
BUT WHATEVER THE CAT'S MOTIVES, IT'S MY DUTY TO TRACK HER DOWN TO HER LAIR. WHICH, ACCORDING TO MY TRUSTY SPIDER-SENSE--
--I'VE JUST DONE!

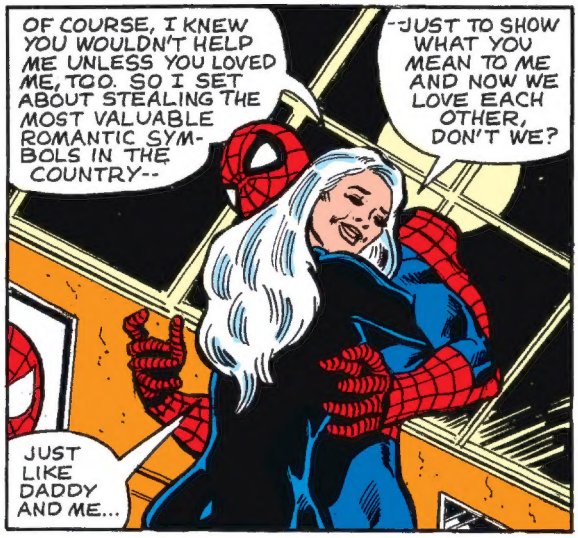

YEP, THERE SHE IS--ALONG WITH HER FOUR "PRIZES". TIME TO MAKE MY GRAND ENTRANCE!

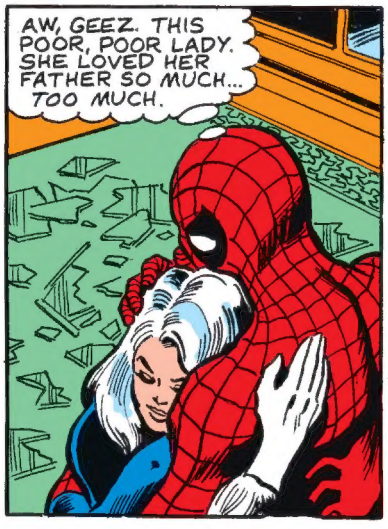
ALL RIGHT, CAT, I'M TAKING THOSE ARTIFACTS! AND IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME--
KAREESH

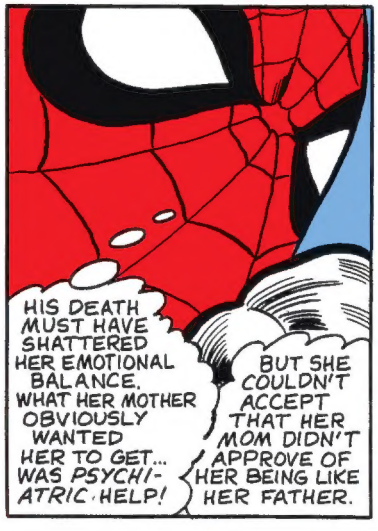

BUT WHY SHOULD I STOP YOU, SILLY? AFTER ALL--
YOU'RE THE ONE I STOLE THEM FOR!
I'M... WHAT?!

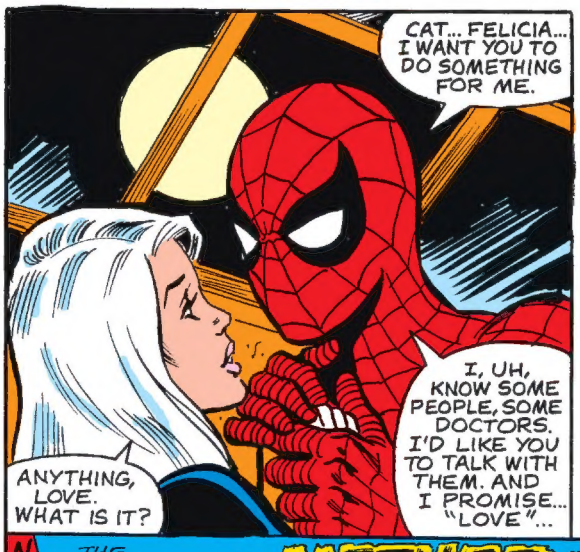

OF COURSE, LOVE, I DID THIS ALL FOR YOU. DON'T YOU LIKE IT?
OH, MY LORD! THIS PLACE IS A SHRINE, ALL RIGHT. BUT IT'S NOT TO THE BLACK CAT'S FATHER--
--IT'S TO ME!
KLIK

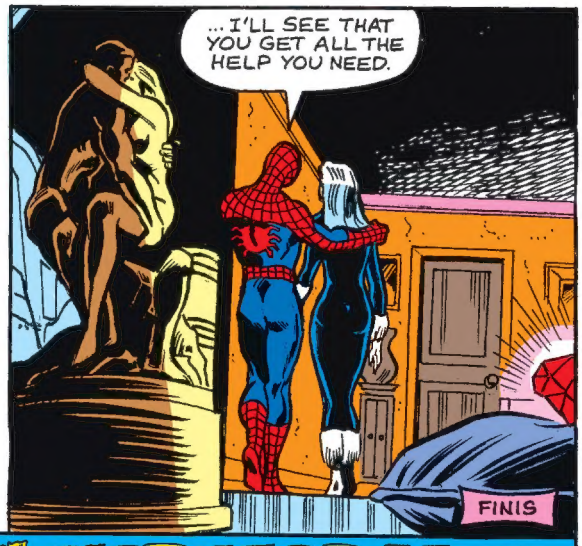












NEXT THE FRIGHTFUL FATE OF J. JONAH JAMESON!

A METHOD IN HIS MADNESS!!

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT!